THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No new proposal has been received from Chhattisgarh and Orissa. However, under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), 14 projects have been sanctioned in Chhattisgarh for electrification of 1132 un/de-electrified villages, intensive electrification of 16333 already electrified villages and release of 777165 BPL connections with a sanctioned cost of Rs. 1105.21 crore. Two projects of Chhattisgarh namely Korea and Jashpur Nagar have been identified for Phase-II of the scheme. Similarly 31 projects have been sanctioned in Orissa for electrification of 17895 un/de-electrified villages, intensive electrification of 28992 already electrified villages and release of 3185863 BPL connections with a sanctioned cost of Rs. 3575.11 crore. No proposal has been received for publicity and awareness from Chhattisgarh and Orissa.

(c) At present, no proposal for lowering the limit of 100 persons is under consideration.

Construction of transmission highway by PGCIL

2740. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) proposes to invest 55,000 crores in building transmission highway in the country;

(b) if so, whether this investment by PGCIL will have an impact on power generation capacity addition in the Central Sector and other generation projects;

(c) if so, the source of mobilizing huge funds by PGCIL; and

(d) to what extent the shortage of power will be met as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various generation companies in the Central and State sectors and the independent power producers undertake generation capacity addition. The PGCIL has made an investment plan of Rs.55,000 crores for establishment of transmission system to evacuate power from the central sector generating stations and Ultra Mega Power Projects and grid strengthening schemes as directed by the Government of India during the XI Plan (2007-12).

(c) For implementing the Inter-State Transmission Projects allotted to the PGCIL, funds are raised by the PGCIL in the form of equity and loans. The PGCIL adopts the financing pattern of 70:30 (Loan: Equity) for implementation of Transmission system. The Equity is put in from internal resources and the loan is borrowed from multilateral funding agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc. and even through domestic borrowings.

(d) The transmission network developed by the PGCIL facilitates the enhancement of inter-regional power transfer capacity thereby transferring power from surplus to deficit regions.

Pace of power reforms

2741. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of fact that because of slow pace of power reforms the envisaged target of electricity for all by 2012 will get affected and can not be achieved by the stipulated time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what necessary steps are being taken by Government to address the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) Planning Commission has fixed a capacity addition target of 78,700 MW during the 11th Plan to meet the power requirement of the country. As per the latest assessment of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), a total capacity addition of 62,374 MW is likely to be commissioned with a high level of certainty during the 11th Plan. In addition projects totaling to 12,590 MW are being attempted for commissioning on best efforts basis in the 11th Plan.

Government has initiated several steps to augment the power generation capacity and achieve the target of electricity for all by 2012 in the country. These are development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4,000 MW each; harnessing surplus captive power into the grid; launch of 50,000 MW hydro initiative for accelerated development of hydro power in the country; renovation, modernization & life extension of old and inefficient generating units; promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures; augmentation of gas supply to utilize the stranded capacity of gas based power stations; augmenting the manufacturing capacity of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) ; and steps to reduce Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses under Restructured Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (RAPDRP).

Utilization of natural gas by power plants

2742. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State-owned power plants have the requisite infrastructure and adequate capabilities to process the expected increase in supply of natural gas from fields like Krishna-Godavari Basin as natural gas cannot be stored;

(b) if so, the installed capacity of our power plants and whether it is being fully utilized; and

(c) whether, due to depleting sources of coal and uncertain availability of water .resources, modifications will be made in power plants so that natural gas could fill in the gap?